MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

NORTH RIVER

UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED WITH

ZION CHURCH,

MARION COUNTY, ALA.

FROM 24TH TO 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1847.

TUSKALOOSA:

PRINTED BY M. D. J. SLADE.

1847.

MINUTES.

Friday, Sept 24, 1847.

1. Elder Jesse Walden, who was appointed to deliver the anniversary discourse, failing to attend, Elder David W. Andrews his alternate, delivered an appropriate discourse from the 2d chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, and from the 11th to the 22d verses inclusive.

2. After a recess of one hour, the delegates assembled in the Meeting-house, prayer by Elder B. B. Smith.

3. Read the letters from corresponding Churches, and enrolled the names of the delegates.

4. An invitation was extended to churches desirous of uniting with this body. The Pleasant Hill Church, Fayette county, and Antioc, Marion county, newly constituted, presented letters praying admission, which were received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to their delegates by the Moderator.

5. Re-elected Elder David W. Andrews Moderator, and Thomas M. Gabbert, Clerk.

6. Received correspondence from our sister, the Chickasaw Association; letter and minutes by the hand of Elder James Boswell.

7. Appointed the following committees: 1st. On Arrangement, brethren Richards, Shepherd, Ray, Black, and Files, with the Moderator and Clerk. 2d. To arrange Preaching, brethren Bowlin, Markham, Dollar, Smith, and Jones. 3d. On Finance, brethren Catledge, Deason and McGown.

8. On motion, adjourned until to-morrow 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder James Boswell.

Saturday, Sept. 25, 1847.

9. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

10. Called the names of the delegates, and marked absentees.

11. The committee of arrangement made their report, which was received, and the committee discharged.

12. Read Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

13. Appointed the next annual session of this body to be held with Pilgrim's Rest Church, Fayette county, to commence on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1848; and that Elder B. B. Smith be appointed to preach the anniversary sermon, and Elder Thomas M. Gabbert his alternate.

14. Appointed Elder Jesse Walden to preach a missionary sermon at 11 o'clock on Sabbath of our next Association, and Elder David W. Andrews his alternate; also to take up a public collection for the purpose of domestic missions.

15. Appointed Elder B. B. Smith to prepare a Circular Letter, (with the liberty of choosing his own subject,) and present the same to the next annual session of this body.

16. Appointed Corresponding Messengers. To the Chickasaw Association, Elders B. B. Smith, David W. Andrews, Jesse Walden, and brother Alson Catledge; Elder David W. Andrews to write the corresponding letter; also agreed to petition the Big Bear Creek Association for correspondence with their body; and that brethren A. J. Smith, Joel Rushing, A. Lawrence, and Elder David W. Andrews be appointed corresponding messengers, and that Elder B. B. Smith write the corresponding letter.

17. Appointed a committee of brethren Willis Richards, B. B. Smith, Michael Shepherd, Alson Catledge, and Isaac Shepherd to revise our plan of missionary operations, and report Monday morning.

18. Received appointments for District meetings, viz;

1st District—The meeting to be held with Bethlehem church, to commence on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1848: Elder B. B. Smith to preach the Introductory sermon, and Elder Lewis Harbin his alternate. 2d District—The meeting to be held with Ebenezer church, to commence on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1848; Elder Abner Files to preach the Introductory sermon, and Elder Thomas M. Gabbert his alternate. 4th District—The meeting to be held with Bethel Church, to commence on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in July, 1847; Elder B. B. Smith to preach the Introductory sermon, and Elder Jesse Walden his alternate.

19. The committee on Finance report as follows: For printing minutes, $22 25; for Associational purposes $10 50; in the hands of the clerk, $1 32 1-2—making $11 82 1-2 for Associational purposes.

20. Took up the query from Shepherd Church—Is it right for a minister of the Gospel, holding a letter of dismission, to take the pastoral care of a Church, and administer the ordinances of the Gospel? We answer, that under ordinary circumstances, it is not.

21. On motion, adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock—prayer by Elder B. B. Smith.

[The stand was occupied on Sabbath by Elders Henry Andrews, Smith and Boswell, who preached to a large and attentive congregation. There was much feeling on the part of the congregation on the subject of religion.

MONDAY, SEPT. 27.

22. Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by Elder James Boswell.

23. The committee on revising our plan of Missionary operations, made their report, which was received, and the committee discharged.

24. We your committee appointed to draft a resolution to improve our plan of obtaining funds for the support of our Domestic Mission, beg leave to report as follows:

Resolved, That we advise the Churches in our Union to take up a monthly collection for the support of our Domestic Mission, and that each Church appoint a treasurer to receive what each member may be willing to contribute, and pay over to the Executive board the amount paid in by the Church; and furthermore we advise the Executive board to have a meeting every four months, at which time it shall be their duty to bring the amount collected at their respective Churches, and we further advise that a public collection be taken up at each District meeting, for the above named purpose.

All of which we respectfully submit to your body.

ISAAC SHEPHERD, Chairman.

25. Appointed an Executive committee, composed of brethren Lewis Stanly, Willis Richards, John Yerby, Lewis Sherley, Silvester Baker, Robert Berry, James Files, William Keeten, Giles Jones, Isaac Shepherd, Jacob Black, Daniel Kerklin, Hiram Smith, Hutson Butler, John Ray, Edmond G. Terrell, Robert Bowlan, James Wilson, Samuel Webster, Allen Wallis.

26. Resolved, That the first meeting of the Executive board be at Union church, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in February, 1848. The second at Shepherd church, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in June following. The third at our next Association.

27. Resolved, That the brother Clerk have Ten Dollars for his services.

28. Resolved, That the brother Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes, and distri-

bute them to the Distributing Agents in each District, after retaining 50 copies for correspondence; and that he have as many copies struck as he can for the money sent.

29. Appointed the following brethren Distributing Agents. 1st District, Thomas M. Gabbert; 2d District, Lewis Harbin; 3d District, John Savage; 4th District, Jacob Lindley.

30. Resolved unanimously, That our sincere thanks are due the brethren and friends of Zion Church for the kind and hospitable entertainment afforded us during our meeting, and the same is hereby tendered.

31. After singing, and prayer by the Moderator, adjourned to the time and place of our next appointment.

DAVID W. ANDREWS, Moderator.

THOMAS M. GABBERT, Clerk.

REPORT OF MISSIONARIES.

BELOVED BRETHREN: This Report closes the scene of my Missionary tour for the nine months, that you employed me to ride. I have spent my time most generally with the Churches in the bounds of the North River Association; during which time I have aided in the constitution of two churches, Fair View, in the N. E. corner of Tuskaloosa county, and Pleasant Hill in the S. W. corner of Fayette county; and I would further remark, that the above named churches were constituted upon the principles of entire abstinence from the use of ardent spirits: and again, in the above specified term, I have rode 3254 miles, preached 156 sermons, delivered 33 exhortations, baptized 41 converts, ordained 3 ministers, 4 deacons, and seceived $200 for the support of the Domestic Mission. All of which is humbly submitted.

DAVID W. ANDREWS.

BELOVED BRETHREN: I have rode 52 days, preached 35 sermons, delivered 12 exhortations, baptised 20 converts, and received $39 for the support of the Domestic Mission. All of which is humbly submitted.

JOSIAH WINTER.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Rule 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Rule 2. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator.

Rule 3. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject in question, or uses words of personal reflection.

Rule 4. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

Rule 5. Every case taken up by the Association shall first be decided, or withdrawn before another is offered.

Rule 6. When any question is taken up by the Association, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, or otherwise. The decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

Rule 7. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave of the Moderator.

Rule 8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave obtained.

Rule 9. The appellation of brother shall be used in our addresses one to another.

Rule 10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges as any other member, provided he appoints some other member to fill his seat, while speaking or otherwise, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

Rule 11. Any member violating the above rules, may be reproved, as the Association may think proper, only on the same day the offence shall have occurred.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

	Churches.	Counties.	Names of Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS. Names of Licentiates in *Italics*. Absentees marked * DELEGATES.	Baptsed.	Rec. by Let.	Secession.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.	For minutes	For Asso'n	C. M.
1st Dist.	Bethlehem	Tusk'a	Lewis Stanley, ABNER FILES, THOMAS M. GABBERT,	2	.	...	...	3	1	2	36	1 25	50	1
	Salem	do	Willis Richards, Isaac Cannon,* Benjamin Mattox,*	.	1	...	1	5	2	3	108	2 00		3
	Liberty	do	*Allen J. Smith, Joel Rushing*, Ira G. Deason,	.	3	...	...	6	.	1	26	1 00	50	4
	Columbia	do	Not represented.											2
	Macedonia	do	*Alexander Lawrrnce*, Lewis Sherley,* Ambrose Dollar,	2	.	...	...	2	.	1	43	2 00	75	4
2d Dist.	Hepsebeth	Fayette	Samuel Appling, Silvester Baker, Wm A. Edmonds,*	.	.	...	..	4	1	.	11	50	20	4
	Mount Joy	do	Abner Files, sen., Robert Berry, LEWIS HARBIN,*	.	3	...	1	6	1	1	19	1 00	50	2
	New Hope	Walker	James Files, Robert Mounts, *Dennis Davis*,	.	.	...	..	1	2		23	50	50	4
	Pleasant Grove	do	BENS. B. SMITH, Reuben Keten, Martin Orarc,	3	5	...	..	.	2		36	1 00	1 00	2
	Ebenezer	do	Giles Jones, JAMES A. JONES, William Davis,	.	3	...	...	1	1		16	1 00		3
3d District.	Shepherd	Fayette	Michael Shepherd, Isaac Shepherd, JAMES RAY,	22	7	3	...	6	1		150	2 75	1 00	2
	Union	do	Jacob Black, *George Trawick*, James Farquhar,	2	1	...	...	11	5		60	1 00	1 00	1
	Mt. Pleasant	do	James T. Collins,* Allen Wallis, Thomas Hitt,	1	1	...	2	20	1		25	50	50	3
	Pilgrim's Rest	do	Alson Catledge, JESSE WALDEN, Lewis Crow,*	16	2	1	..	3	2		66	1 50	55	4
	Camp Spring	do	Hiram Smith, Morris Gwin, Miles Rainwater,*	3	6	...	..	.	1		28	1 00	1 00	1
	Pleasant Hill	do	Josiah Wilson, James M. Wilson, Jonathan McNealc,	.	.	...	..	.	.		34	75	50	2
4th district.	New Prospect	Miss'pi	DAVID W. ANDREWS, George West, Hutson Butler,*	1	3	...	..	2	1		25	1 00	50	2
	Bethel	do	John H. Ray, Isaac Black, Henry Picket,*	1	2	...	..	.	1		29	1 00		3
	Shady Grove	Marion.	Edmund G. Terrell, John Risinger,* David Morrow,*	2	.	...	..	3	.		20	1 00	1 00	4
	Zion	do	Anderson Markham, Tho's W. McGowen, Rob't Bowlin,	8	1	2	4	4	3		79	1 00	50	4
	Antioc	do	*Jacob L. Lindley*, Samuel C. Webster, J. R. Rainwater,*		.	...	..	.			9	50		1
				63	38	6	8	77	25	8	843	22:25	11:50	

Received of Thomas M. Gabbert, $24 for printing 800 of these minutes. M. D. J. SLADE.

☞ The next annual session of the Chickasaw Association will be held with Academy Church, Tippa county, commencing on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in September, 1848.

BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH.

1st. *Of the Scriptures.*—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author; Salvation for its end, and Truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the True centre of Christian Union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2d. *Of the true God.*—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;

equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3d. *Of the Fall of Man.*—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just commendation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4th. *Of the Way of Salvation.*—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the meditorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his personal obedience, and, made attonement for our sins by his death; being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in Heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

5th. *Of Justification.*—That the great Gospel blessing, which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness; which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6th. *Of the Freeness of Salvation.*—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith: and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

7th. *Of Grace in Regeneration.*—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the holy Spirit; so as to secure our voluatary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

8th. *Of God's Purpose of Grace.*—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end: that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God; and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel: it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our most dilligence.

9th. *Of the Perseverance of Saints.*—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10th. *Harmony of the Law and Gospel.*—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.

11th. *Of a Gospel Church.*—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation f baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gosel; observing the ordinances of Chirst; governed by his laws; and exercising the

gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12th. *Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour; with its puryfying power; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the Church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

13th. *Of the Christian Sabbath.*—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14th. *Of civil Government.*—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientuously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

15th. *Of the Righteous and the Wicked.*—That there is a radicial and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

16th. *Of the World to Come.*—That the end of this world is approaching, and that at the last day, Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn seperation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the United Baptist Churches of Jesus Chist, are desirous of a reciprocal union. We therefore propose to maintain the order and rules of an Association, according to the following plan:

We believe that the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other; and that the congregational form of church government should be inviolably preserved; yet being convinced of the utility of friendly intercouse and pious counsels, on the principles of reciprocal advantage and christian love; we hold it to be a duty of the Churches to pay respect on these principles, to the advice of the Association.

Art. 1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union; who, on producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats. The letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches respectively viz: the number in fellowship, the number received by baptism, by letters, by secession, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead, since the last Association; which letters shall be read, and the delegates name enrolled.

Art. 2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of the North River United Baptist Association.

Art. 3. We declare ourselves a Missionary body on the following plan. The Association may appoint an executive committee composed of one member from each church, to be appointed annually; whose duty it shall be, to employ a Missionary or Missionaries to travel and preach the gospel to the destitute in her bounds; and to enlarge their field of labor if necessary; and furthermore it shall be the duty

of said committee to appoint a Treasurer to take charge of all moneys paid over by the several churches for the support of the domestic mission, also said treasurer shall make a correct report at each and every annual session of this body of all the monies received—expenditures, and the surplus on hand, if any; which report shall be affixed to the Minutes of the Association.

Art. 4. The Association thus formed shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

Art. 5. This body shall have no coercive power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal privilegs or rights of the Churches in our Union, but shall only be considered an advisory council in all matters respecting their internal concerns.

Art. 6. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union should be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches, which they may look upon to be unsound in principle, or immoral in practice, until they be reclaimed.

Art. 7. To take up no case of any Church in the Union, without the consent of a majority of the Church.

Art. 8. Newly constituted or dismissed Churches, may be received into our Union, by their representatives, chosen as before stated; and the Moderator shall signify the same by giving them the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 9. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by such rules as she may adopt. She may adjourn from day to day, until she shall have finished all the business that may be brought before her.

Art. 10. Every Church shall be entitled to a representation of three members.

Art. 11. To have the Minutes of the Association read, and altered, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises, and have them printed if she thinks proper.

Art. 12. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

Art. 18. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body, in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

Art. 14. To amend the plan or form of government at any time, when a majority of the Union shall deem it necessary.